(387)

UNITED
NATIONS

TD

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

LIMITED

TD/B/L.936
1 May 1992

Original: ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Thirty-eighth session
Second part
Geneva, 21 April 1992
Agenda item 2

Draft terms of reference
Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors:
Fostering Competitive Services Sectors in Developing Countries

Agreed text submitted by the Chairman of Drafting Group B

1. To analyze and assist, as appropriate, in the formulation of national policies aimed at strengthening the production, export and technological capacity of services sectors taking into account their level of development in different countries, with a view to contributing to development and, thus, increasing the participation of developing countries in world trade in services. The Committee should focus on:

(a) review of the development of services sectors in developing countries and comparative analysis of policies, including identification of domestic weaknesses and capabilities, aimed at creating the conditions necessary for the development of competitive service sectors and export of services;

(b) policies aimed at developing and strengthening the institutional, technological, and physical infrastructure relating to services;

(c) policies aimed at human resources development, the development of knowledge intensive services, and producer services related to primary and manufacturing sectors and telecommunications;

(d) improving the capacity of individual countries, in particular developing countries to benefit from information related to services production, trade and technology;

(e) identifying sector specific policy options, with a view to developing competitive services sectors;

(f) analyzing issues relating to access to information networks and distribution channels for services;

2. The Committee should also focus on:

(a) examining difficulties particularly faced by developing countries in enhancing exports of services thereby increasing their participation in world trade in services;

(b) the impact of progressive liberalization in the development of competitive service sectors;

(c) policies aimed at enhancing co-operation with other countries, at regional, subregional, and interregional level, including mutual trade liberalization, pooling capabilities to improve skills, distribution networks and infrastructure development;

(d) promoting efficient marketing of export competitive industries and domestic labour skills;

(e) increasing knowledge of laws and regulations concerning the services sector with a view, inter alia to adapting them to the requirements of increasing globalization of services, promoting transparency and mutual knowledge of the pertinent regulations;

(f) collecting and disseminating statistics on trade in services in areas where such collection or dissemination is not being undertaken by other international organizations, and to define ways to improve such collection and dissemination;

3. (i) With reference to paragraph 72 of the Cartagena Commitment, the main tasks of the Committee in the field of shipping, ports, and multi-modal transport, should be as outlined above, and particularly focus on:

(a) review of shipping policies so as to identify elements leading to the development of competitive shipping sectors, in order to enhance the participation of developing countries in world shipping;

(b) consideration of conditions facilitating intra and inter-regional co-operation;

(c) exchange of information on infrastructure development, including port infrastructure;

(d) identification of human resources development needs, including on-the-job training;

(e) exchange and dissemination of information on developments in the shipping sector;

(f) the efficient conduct of multimodal transport processes; bearing in mind economic, commercial and legal aspects;

(g) review of technological developments that affect maritime transport;

(h) considering various aspects of port management operations, with a view to increasing efficiency.

(ii) The Committee should take into account the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade Efficiency on transport related information systems.

4. To analyze prospects for developing and strengthening the insurance sector and enhancing the trade of developing countries in this sector;

5. The Committee, in implementing its functions, should pay due attention to the role of services in market-oriented development, including issues related to privatization and deregulation;

6. In implementing the above, the Committee shall take into account the work undertaken by the IGE on RBPs;

7. The Committee shall ensure that its work does not duplicate or overlap the activities of the GATT.

8. The Committee will hold separate sessions on services in general, shipping and insurance respectively.